

VIA: ATR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. NR1A-1698

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, NEA

DATE 11 December 1953

FROM : Chief ☒

INFO: Chief ☒

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OPERATIONAL/INTEL/OBOPUS/SHAM

SPECIFIC— Information from ☒ in regard to the capture of  
Zejnel SHEHI

REF: ☒ dated 17 November 1953  
DIR 28640, dated 27 November 1953  
☒ dated 1 December 1953

1. Forwarded herewith is a literal translation of a report from ☒ which was delivered to ☒ on 23 November 1953. This ~~Serbian~~ translation contains details which may be of interest to both Headquarters and ☒
2. In an attempt to clarify the data concerning the actual capture and to determine the possibilities for using the channel in question in connection with possible KUBARK activities in the future, the additional details furnished below were secured in the course of a conversation with ☒ on 4 December 1953.
  - a. The report on the capture of Zejnel SHEHI actually originated with a "commissar" of the Sigurimi in Peshkopi, whose name will be determined as soon as possible and who is described as a loyal nationalist in spite of his present position. This man is a friend of Gani TONUZI and is visited periodically by the latter. This "commissar," whose actual title will also be clarified as soon as possible, wanted the report conveyed to Zejnel's sister in Debar, and promised to pass on such additional information about the Zejnel case as might reach him through official or unofficial channels. He stated that Zejnel had been separated from the other prisoners and that Mehmet SHEHI is personally conducting Zejnel's interrogation.
  - b. Gani TONUZI is an Albanian refugee living in Debar. He knows the border area extremely well and makes frequent trips back and forth without the knowledge of the Yugoslav authorities. His own village is approximately five kilometers from the border on the Albanian side, and he has friends and relatives on both sides. TONUZI's

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brother is

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brother is a member of the Yugoslav-sponsored League of Albanian Refugees.

- c. Col. Marko TRIFUN is a Macedonian and obviously a specialist in Albanian affairs. He speaks Albanian fluently and was described by BICAKU as an agreeable individual. There is no doubt that he is not Cedomir MIJOVIC. An attempt will be made to secure a better description of TRIFUN.
3. Further discussion of the information on Zejnel's capture indicates that according to the "commissar" in Peshkopi, Zejnel's group numbered six men, of whom four were actually taken prisoner. These four were Zejnel SHEHI, Halil BRANICA, Hadji DJULF, and a fourth person, name unknown. Who the remaining two individuals were and whether they were killed or escaped is also unknown, but an attempt will be made to clarify this point.

GJYLA

5 December 1953

Enclosure:

Translation of [ ] Report

Distribution:

- 5 - Headquarters w/encl, 1 copy
- 1 - [ ] w/encl, 1 copy
- 2 - Files w/encl, 1 copy

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When Captain Zejnel SHEHI, Halil BRANICA, and their companions went to Albania I was not informed of this operation, but later I learned that they entered during the winter of 1951-1952, and that they succeeded in remaining undetected until July 1953. When contact with them was lost, I received a confidential letter from Col. H. SELMANI, asking me to do whatever I could, through our Albanian friends now living as emigrants in Yugoslavia, to find out what happened to Zejnel and his companions.

In DEBAR, Yugoslavia, now lives one of our good friends, Uke CAMI, who is married to Captain Zejnel SHEHI's sister. Therefore, my first effort was to write them a letter asking whether they knew anything concerning Zejnel. I made no mention of the fact that he is in Albania, and CAMI, not knowing that Zejnel had entered Albania, replied that all he knew was that Zejnel became an emigrant in April 1939 and that nothing was known of his present whereabouts.

In view of the fact that such a matter cannot be clarified by letter, I was obliged to send one of our trusted men to Yugoslavia. I sent Jusuf BICAKU because he is a friend of Uke CAMI's and of several other Albanians in DEBAR. When Jusuf BICAKU arrived in DEBAR, several new refugees arrived from Albania, among them being Gani TONUZI, a relative of Uke CAMI's. Gani TONUZI brought the news that Zejnel SHEHI and three comrades were captured by the TIRANA police and that Zejnel is now confined in the special premises of the Ministry of Interior. It is interesting that to this date the radio TIRANA has mentioned nothing of this event. According to the statements of Gani TONUZI, Zejnel was imprisoned at the beginning of August 1953. He was betrayed by one of his relatives names Myslim SHEHI.

In order to obtain more reliable information on this capture, I have communicated again with my friends in DEBAR and await their answer.

When Jusuf BICAKU wanted to return to Istanbul, a Yugoslav Colonel TRIFUN (I don't know his first name.) invited him through Uke CAMI to call, and questioned him at length about the Albanian emigration in Greece and Turkey, and asked him about many emigrants personally. BICAKU told me that this Colonel possesses detailed information on the Albanian emigration abroad and finally asked about the Anglo-American agents who are sent from Turkey into or through Yugoslavia. When BICAKU replied that he knew nothing of such matters, the Colonel begged him to interest himself in these things and told him to go to SKOPLJE as soon as he learns something positive and to brief the Colonel on the results of his investigations.

When BICAKU and CAMI left the Colonel, CAMI, who is on very good terms with Col. TRIFUN, told BICAKU that in July 1953 Col. TRIFUN had offered to pay Uke CAMI for a trip to Istanbul in order to look into these same matters, but Uke CAMI refused the offer, saying that he is old, does not know the Turkish language, and cannot undertake such a mission.

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It is certain that the Yugoslavs and TRIFUN know nothing about Zejnel's capture. Uke CAMI is a good nationalist and there can be no doubt about his being a Yugoslav agent.

(Translation of a report in Yugoslav which  
was received by [ ] from [ ] on  
23 November 1953.)

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CHIEF, NSCA

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